

PRESS RELEASE

For: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 10, 2005

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SLND to provide North Dakota students access to Bridges college prep software

Bismarck, ND – Student Loans of North Dakota (SLND) at Bank of North Dakota (BND) has signed an agreement with Bridges, a provider of career and educational planning solutions, to provide every North Dakota middle school and high school with college and career preparation software. The agreement includes providing high school students access to Bridges Guidance Central, a software program with career exploration, planning and testing tools including testGEAR for ACT, Choices Planner and Choices Explorer. Also through this agreement, middle school students in the state will have access to Choices Explorer, a career and education planning software program.

Students registered at 225 North Dakota public and private schools throughout the state will now have access to Bridges new test prep products for the ACT test. BND's purchase of these test prep products for the state of North Dakota provides a state-wide application of Bridges testGEAR product line. In addition to state-wide product distribution, this sponsorship agreement also includes training for North Dakota's education professionals who will be implementing the products into the schools.

"The purchase and implementation of this program illustrates Student Loans of North Dakota's, administered by Bank of North Dakota, commitment to North Dakota's education system, from middle school through high school, and ultimately higher education," said BND President Eric Hardmeyer. "By enhancing our partnership with North Dakota schools, we provide teachers and counselors with important education tools while continuing SLND-Guarantor's obligation to educate students and their families in the availability of student loans and the importance of their repayment obligation."

Bridges testGEAR offers each student a personalized study plan based on the results of a brief test. Students are then guided through a 50+ hour instructional program that strengthens content skills, introduces test-taking strategies and builds confidence with many short practice tests and full-length exams.

"Providing ACT testing preparation and college and career planning resources is critical to helping students prepare adequately for their future beyond high school. When SLND set out to make these resources available to North Dakota middle and high school students, we chose the Bridges products, as the best tools available to meet our goal. We are thrilled at the prospect of broadening access to career and college planning among North Dakota students, and look forward to seeing the positive results," said Julie Kubisiak, Director of SLND at BND.

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Student Loans of North Dakota at Bank of North Dakota helps students and families in North Dakota and throughout the United States who want to go to college or other training after high school. The Bank of North Dakota was established in 1919 and is the only state-owned bank in the United States. The nation's first federally insured student loan was made by BND in 1967. SLND is administered by BND and offers a variety of loan programs to help students and parents finance a college education.